

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. Patent Application S.N. 10/734,993

Confirmation No. 2071

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MOVEMENT OF DRILLING
EQUIPMENT BETWEEN ADJACENT LOCATIONS

Inventor(s): JONES

Filed: 12/12/03

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: GAY

AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated December 16, 2005. A Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) is also being filed herewith.

- Amendments to the Drawings are reflected on the attached replacement sheets and described on page 2.
- Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3.
- Amendments to the Claims begin on page 4.
- Remarks begin on page 12.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement drawing sheets are attached hereto and replace all prior versions of the drawings in the present application.

The Examiner objected to Fig. 7 for labeling the drilling apertures with numbers already used to designate another feature. In response, Applicants have amended Fig. 7 such that the drilling apertures are numbered 101 – 112.

The Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to include reference number 22 mentioned in the description. Amended Fig. 4C includes reference number 22.

The Examiner objected to the drawings for including reference number 30, which the Examiner could not located in the description. Applicants have reviewed the drawings and description and found reference number 30 on Page 14, line 15, referencing pontoons in Figs. 6A – 6C. Applicants could not find reference number 30 on those figures, and therefore assume that the Examiner meant to point out the reference number was missing from the figures. Applicants have thus amended Fig. 6A to include reference number 30.

The Examiner further objected to the drawings for not showing the friction reducing coating on the rig support structure as recited in Claims 10 and 30, each of which recites a layer. In response, Applicants have amended Claims 10 and 30 as set out herein.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification at Page 17, line 29 through Page 18, line 4 as follows:

To demonstrate this possibility, Fig. 7 shows a pad [1] which has 15 drilling location apertures [4] disposed throughout in a grid pattern, with drilling location aperture covers [8] thereover. In the embodiment shown, three of the total of 15 possible drilling location apertures [4] letters A, B and C are open, with the remainder being covered (and numbered ~~1-101~~ through ~~12-112~~). By simply closing and opening other combinations of drilling location apertures [4] by means of a drilling location aperture cover [8], this pad [1] could add significant additional flexibility to the rig apparatus [5].